

NEWS RELEASE

Date: October 8, 2015

District: Los Angeles/Ventura

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAJOR TRAFFIC DELAYS DURING I-5/RIO HONDO BRIDGE REPAIRS

DOWNEY – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is anticipating heavy traffic delays along the Santa Ana Freeway (Interstate 5) between the San Gabriel River Freeway (Interstate 605) and the Long Beach Freeway (Interstate 710), during two consecutive weekends, October 17 and October 24, as crews repair the Rio Hondo Bridge that was severely damaged by a fire in a transient camp beneath the structure in July. Full and partial freeway, connector and ramp closures will be required as crews repair the bridge, which typically carries an average of 233,000 vehicles per day.



Southbound I-5 will be closed each weekend between Slauson Avenue and Paramount Boulevard from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. on Saturdays to re-stripe the freeway and place temporary K-rail in preparation for deck removal in two lanes. Only two of four lanes will be open during the day as crews tear out damaged concrete. During the second weekend, a northbound lane will also be closed during the day while the deck and median barrier are demolished.

At 11 p.m. each Saturday night during these weekend closures, the entire I-5 freeway will be closed between Slauson Avenue and Paramount Boulevard along with connector closures from I-605 while concrete is poured and cured. Rapid-set concrete will be used to shorten curing time, but there can be no vibrations while it cures. The first weekend, northbound I-5 will re-open at 5 a.m. and southbound I-5 will re-open at 9 a.m. The second weekend, northbound I-5 will re-open at 7 a.m. and southbound I-5 will re-open at 10 a.m.

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Local on-ramps to I-5 through the area will remain closed during full freeway closures with the Slauson Avenue on-ramp and Triggs Avenue on and off-ramps remaining closed during the entire weekend's work time.

The southbound I-710 to southbound I-5 connector also will remain closed the entire weekend. The connectors from I-605 to northbound I-5 will be closed the second weekend beginning Saturday at 8 a.m. until Sunday morning.

On both weekends, motorists can expect nearly two hours of travel time on southbound I-5 with backup as much as three miles. Travel time on northbound I-5 through the area is anticipated to be 30 minutes with a one-mile backup. The two far right southbound lanes will be blocked on October 17 to 18 and two southbound left lanes and the one northbound left lane will be blocked on October 24 to 25.

Motorists should plan ahead and use public transit when possible. Alternate routes are strongly recommended to reduce traffic in the area. Motorists on northbound I-5 may use westbound SR-91 to northbound I-710 north and back to I-5. Additionally, motorists may use northbound I-605 north to westbound SR-60. Motorists headed southbound may use southbound I-710 to eastbound I-105 or eastbound SR-91 east and rejoin I-5.

Fixed overhead and portable changeable message signs are now posted warning motorists of the upcoming work.

Businesses in Commerce and Downey will remain open during the work.

See <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist07/rio-hondo/> for more information.

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